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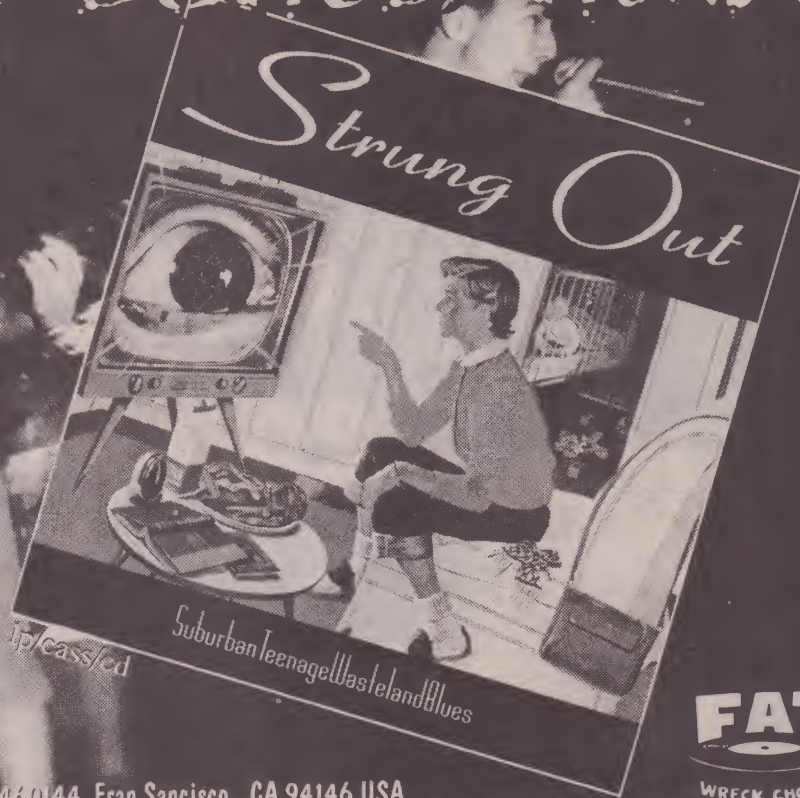
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issue 9

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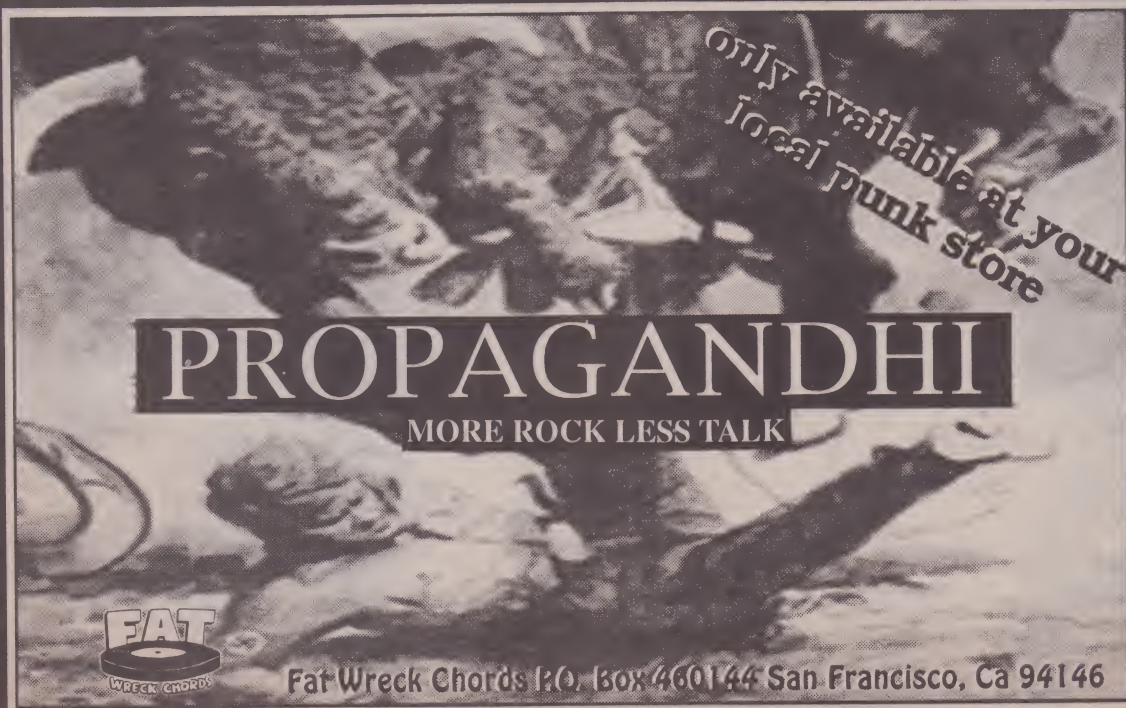
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Fanzine

Issue 9

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HELLO AGAIN. WELCOME TO ANOTHER EXITING EPISODE OF HELLBENDER. THAT'S RIGHT EVERYBODY, IT'S ON NEWSPRINT. GUESS YOU COULD SAY HELLBENDER HAS COME A LONG WAY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY EACH ISSUE COMES WITH IT'S FAIR SHARE OF SNAGS. IT ALWAYS SEEMS THINGS FALL APART AT THE LAST MINUTE. FOR ALL THOSE WHO THINK I DO NOTHING FOR HELLBENDER, I PRETTY MUCH ONLY DID EVERYTHING, THAT'S ALL. HEY, I EVEN TRANSCRIBED AND TYPED ALL THE INTERVIEWS, WELL EXCEPT THE DOWN BY LAW INTERVIEW. (YOU CAN THANK GREK FOR THAT ONE) SOMETIMES I WONDER IF THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN, " MAJOR LABEL VS. INDIE" OR " WHO'S A SELL-OUT OR NOT". I THINK WE ARE LOSING SIGHT OF ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT: THE MUSIC! DISCLAIMER! IT'S STRANGE HOW SO MANY PEOPLE KNOW WHO'S-ON-WHAT-LABEL. WHO-SIGNED-TO-WHAT-LABEL-BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. YET WHEN SOMEONE WRITES SOMETHING IN A ZINE, OR HAS AN OPINION, PEOPLE THINK IT AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDES EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH THE ZINE. NOT TRUE. IF SOMEONE WHO WRITES, OR HAS AN OPINION IN THIS ZINE, IT *DOES NOT* NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF ANYONE ELSE INVOLVED WITH THIS ZINE. IS THAT TOO DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND? EXAMPLE: GREK DID ZINE REVIEWS IN THIS ISSUE. I WAS AGAINST IT. SO IF YOUR ZINE IS NOT REVIEWED, IT'S NOT MY FAULT. IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE REVIEW, NOT MY FAULT. SO DON'T COME CRYIN' TO ME ABOUT IT. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO GET SOME ORGANIZATION HERE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE. I HOPE YOU ENJOY EVERY LAST PAGE.

- JASON HORTON

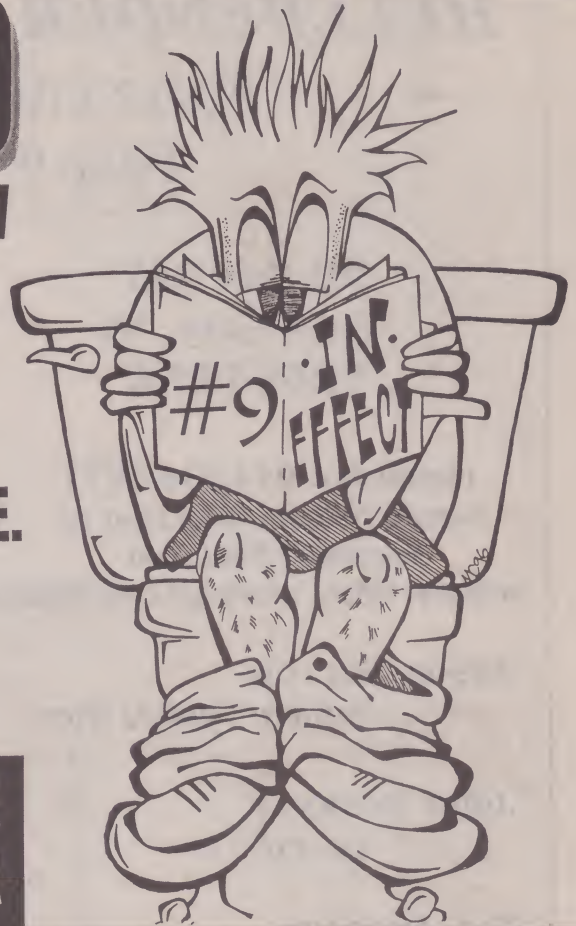
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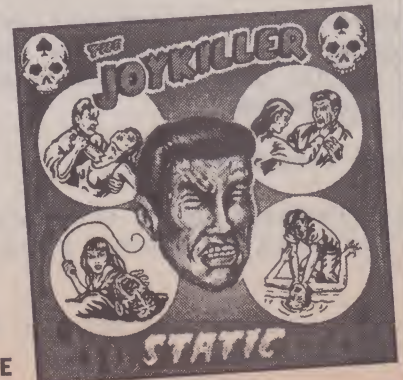


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Down By Law



On May 3, 1996, Down By Law brought their live act to The Tuxedo Junction in Danbury, Connecticut. After rocking everyone's socks off, they were cool enough to do an interview. Luckily for Joe Average, Jay Horton, and myself, it turned out much better than that. We actually ended up getting a free meal and a good interview. Plus we got to share our secrets of life with vocalist Dave Smalley, bassist John Di Mambro, and drummer Hunter Oswald. In the end it was a good time had by all. Enjoy...

Joe Average: So how does it feel putting out the first double punk album since "Zen Arcade"?

Dave Smalley: We're proud of it. When we first heard that, it was great. It's important to keep vinyl alive.

JA: Did you record the 6 extra tracks on the vinyl with the double album in mind?

Dave Smalley: No, not at all. It was all done during production. We actually got into a few arguments with the producers about what tracks should go where.

JA: So you didn't pick the six weakest tracks for side 4?

Dave Smalley: No. In fact, I think some of the best ones are on side 4. I love "Green Hills Of Virginia". Actually, I love all of them.

Jay Horton: So were the extra vinyl tracks a stab against the CD industry?

Dave Smalley: Not really. It was more of a pro vinyl statement than an anti-CD one. I just think of records being a great art form. It's very warm and personal.

JA: So with you being on Epitaph and being so against major labels, what do you think of what's going on with The Offspring? I've heard you defend them before, but now there's actually a lawsuit with Atlantic Records...

Dave Smalley: Actually, it's Columbia. If they do sign, we'll say more, but it's suffice to say anyone who leaves the best independent label in the world would be really stupid and especially one that made them multi-millionaires. It's ungrateful, it's fucking crazy, and it's a bad business move. If they did sign, they'd deserve to lose every cent they had and rot in Hell. But if they don't, then they're our label mates and we'll continue to support them. As of right now, they're still on Epitaph.

JA: So you don't have a problem being on the same label as Offspring and Rancid? They're both basically referred to as sellouts.

Dave Smalley: I loved the last Rancid album. As far as I know, they've shown no signs of leaving. They already went through that. I don't think any major label could give them the personal touch Epitaph gives.

JA: What are you trying to do, get a job in publicity? (laughter all around because Joe's so damn funny)

JH: The three of us here in the Hellbender family, we've often talked about how people equate success with selling out. Like if you sell X amount of albums, then you're a sellout.

John Greak: Actually, it's 56 albums. If you sell more than that, then you're a sellout.

JH: What's your take on all that stuff? You know, the whole Brett Gurewitz-MaximumRockNRoll thing?

John Di Mambro: We're all in favor of Communism as long as we can be king.

Dave Smalley: You know there are always going to be people who want their favorite bands to be starving, poor, and homeless. I think probably 5% of DBL fans would prefer it if we didn't sell records.

JA: So you'd be more punk if you were starving, living in a squat and shooting heroin...

Dave Smalley: Yeah, if we ate grass tonight instead of a meal or something. But once again, I think it's only a small percentage of our fans that feel that way. If anyone loves a band, they should be happy that they're doing well.

JH: But everyone still says the same things, you know, Epitaph sucks-they're the "major label of independent labels".

John Di Mambro: I think everyone forgets that Brett started Epitaph all those years ago just releasing Bad Religion records. Up until a few years ago it was still like a warehouse with 5 people there and you could just walk in and say, "What's up Brett?". Actually, you can still do that.

JH: You can't do that at Atlantic, can you?

John Di Mambro- Well, we've been inside major labels before...

JH: What!? Get Out! That's the last time you stab me in the back...

John Di Mambro: Sorry about that, but it's like you have to talk to this person to talk to that person to talk to this person again. You never get to see the wizard behind the curtain.

Dave Smalley: Yeah. We've turned down about five majors in the past year. They like call your lawyer and ask if they can have lunch with you. They have their hip people now, too, which makes it worse. All you can do is politely say no thank you. We don't even take the dinner. Hopefully we can afford our own...

JH: If not, I can get you a value meal at McDonalds or something...

Dave Smalley: You mean like the two Big Macs for \$2 deal? Maybe if we're good, Epitaph will treat us.

JA: Not to change the subject or anything, but Hunter was telling us outside the club that he feels he's ready to sing "Flower tattoo". He said he finally feels up to the part.

Dave Smalley: (to Hunter) Is this true?

John Di Mambro: Actually, I think he said he was going to hit the next guy who mentioned that...

JH: Now to take this in a totally different direction, Dave, I'm sure you know that you're quite the straight edge icon. What do you have to say about it now that you're not straight edge anymore?

Dave Smalley: I think being straight edge is a very good thing and it

definitely was one of the most positive things in my life for a long time. But I'm 31 now, and I guess it was when I went to Ireland that my heritage came out. Someone offered me a Guinness and I drank it and that was that. It's not like I'm going to go out and get drunk every night and be an asshole. But sitting down and having a couple beers isn't going to hurt you. But I don't care at all for the current straight edge movement. It's very conformity ridden. Actually, I guess Shelter was playing near here tonight, so I'm sure all the straight edge kids went to that show instead.

JG: What do you think of a band like Shelter using their music to draw impressionable kids into their whole Krishna thing?

Dave Smalley: I don't agree with that at all...

John Di Mambro: Yeah, plus their cookies suck. We played with them one time and they were passing out these cookies. They tasted like crap. I can't become Krishna until they get rid of the cookies.

JH: Is anyone in the band straight edge?

John Di Mambro: I don't drink, smoke, or do drugs, but I don't call myself straight edge.

Dave Smalley: We're not a straight edge band, although I think the ideals are great for someone that follows them intelligently.

"I think there are plenty of people out there who drink a beer or two who are more true to the ideals of straight edge than most of the straighter than thou little fascists out there who say if you drink, you suck." - Dave Smalley

JH: Well you do have that famous tatoo...

Dave Smalley: And I still feel like that. I'm not going to get drunk tonight and start a fight. To tell you the truth, I think there are plenty of people who drink a beer or two who are more true to the ideals of straight edge than most of the straighter than the little fascists out there who say if you drink, you suck. When I was in ALL, someone asked Karl Alvarez about Uniform Choice, and he said something to the degree of, "I don't want there to be a Uniform Choice." I think that says it all. It's nothing against the band, just the narrow minded of the name.

John Di Mambro: I remember seeing Minor Threat in 1981...

JH: How old are you?

John Di Mambro: 416. No, I'm younger than Ian McKaye and old enough to have seen Minor Threat. Anyway, seeing Minor Threat was such a positive, energizing experience. There were no politics involved. I remember walking up to Ian and Brian Baker after the show drinking a 40 oz. Colt 45 and being like, "Great show. Want a drink?". They just politely declined. They didn't knock it out of my hand or beat me up. Afterward someone told me they were straight edge, that they didn't drink or do drugs. That was my first introduction to it. It just used to be another lifestyle punks could choose from. Now it's like you have to do it.

JA: There's someone out there with a straight edge bible and the rules change every day.

JH: Okay Dave, this line of questioning is definitely for you. Why did the Dag Nasty album "Four On The Floor" come out?

Dave Smalley: In the album there's a message...

JH: I know, but I want to hear it from the horses mouth. A lot of people run around saying you did it just for the cash.

Dave Smalley: Well then, I was over Brian Bakers house one day while he was still in Junkyard and he had been writing songs that really didn't fit that band...

JA: Why, because they were good?

Dave Smalley: Hey, Junkyard was a lot better than people gave them credit for. Everyone just freaked out because they were a bunch of punk rockers. Anyway, I really loved the songs and me and Brian started talking about doing another record. We went to Brett and he said he'd love to put it out. Then we dug up Colin and Roger and went into the studio. I think we just had to go out on a high note. The last Dag Nasty album before that was kind of...

JH: Sucky?

Dave Smalley: No, I'd say a bit watery. Brian knew that and he wanted to do one more record.

JA: How does it feel to know that a lot of the kids here tonight, most of which looked about 16, probably have no idea who Dag Nasty is?

Dave Smalley: I don't know, I kind of like the young crowd. They run and jump around; I think we all get a lot of energy from that...

JG: Yeah, there's no energy coming from the three of us just standing there.

Dave Smalley: We've played shows where from the first chord, 7 fights break out. I'll take tonight's crowd anytime over that. It was just great to see the whole crowd dance to "Radio Raga".

JA: It didn't matter that they were all off the beat?

Dave Smalley: Well I have no more soul than them...

John Di Mambro: I remember seeing the Bad Brains and they'd play hardcore song, reggae song, hardcore song, reggae song. The punks would all be slamming to "Pay To Cum" and then it would all just stop. But there was this one guy on speed and he just kept on going. I guess you had to be there.

JA: With the crowd being so young, do you think you write songs that cater to a younger crowd?

Dave Smalley: I just write stuff I'm happy with. I write from my own experience. It's a very personal thing. It's great that someone identifies with it no matter how old they are.

JH: I have to mention that tonight you did play a Dag Nasty song ("Under Your Influence"). A lot of people won't do that, like CIV won't play Gorilla Biscuits songs, Fugazi doesn't play Minor Threat songs. Why do you?

Dave Smalley: Obviously everyone in the band has to agree on what we play. "Under Your Influence" is still a song that rings true to me and it means a great deal. I could never play an old song I didn't believe in any longer.

John Di Mambro: It's funny. About a year ago, me and Dave went

to go see Paul Weller and he didn't do one single Jam song.

JG: Any Style Council stuff?

John Di Mambro: Not even. It was all his solo stuff. But all the old Jam songs, he wrote those, and it's an important part of his career. Those are the songs the people want to hear. But if he no longer thinks they reflect him, I guess he won't play them. I was disappointed.

JG: Well, this band Waterdog covers "In The City". Now there's a band for you.

(Okay, here the tape becomes impossible to hear. Imagine 6 people sitting around talking about Stiff Little Fingers for 2 minutes. Okay back to land of the audible...)

JH: Okay, will someone tell me what the hell Dag Nasty means. Will someone please tell me?

Dave Smalley: Brian Baker was walking down the street in D.C. and if you didn't know, about 70% of D.C.'s population is minorities. There was an old fellow sitting on the stoop outside this building and here comes Brian with his bleached blonde hair with these black roots. The guy took one look at him and said, "That boy look dag nasty". It just kind of stuck.

JA: Now what does the Down By Law symbol mean? What about the name itself?

John Di Mambro: The Down By Law symbol can be interpreted how you want. Obviously you can see the a D, a B, and an L in the symbol. It was designed by an artist named Norman Moore. The name itself comes from the movie entitled "Down By Law". It's a great film. Basically we're a bunch of thieves.

Dave Smalley: On the symbol, I think we all have a tattoo of it except John. The great thing about the symbol is the arrow, which a lot of the mod bands had. The Jam, The Who, the Undertones. I think it looks great.

JA: So what's up with this current tour? I was disappointed you didn't play anything off "Blue".

Dave Smalley: No, I think we did. We try to play songs off every record. Usually Hunter or John sits down and writes a different set list every night. Of course we're most excited about the new material, so that's what the emphasis is on.

JH: What plans do you have coming up?

Dave Smalley: We're playing the Warped Tour this summer. Before that we're going to round out this tour. I guess we're just going to tour. We're doing a song on an upcoming Smiths tribute record on this label out of NY called All That.

John Di Mambro: We're also recording barber shop quartet versions of all the songs we usually don't play live.

JH: How does this interview compare to all the ones you've done before?

Dave Smalley: I told you guys before that when you get to this part of the country you find this thing called wit. It's probably all part of that East coast aggressive attitude. There was a lot of humor involved here and we're big fans of that.

There you have it. One Down By Law interview. It may not be pretty, but it was a lot of fun. Down By Law rules. Check 'em out...

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H2O



The following interview with NYC's H2O, is in two parts. The first part takes place a few months before the release of their self titled record. This interview contained questions and information that has been asked and been written about many time by now. Therefore, I decided not to recreate that information. I tried to print some other interesting aspects of the interview. The second part of the interview was done recently in Long Island, NY. Interviewed was Toby Morse, vocalist. With that said, let me welcome you to the wonderful world of H2O.

Part One:

Jay: Let's talk about the move from EVR to Blackout.

We did a 2 song 7 inch with Steve, and that's all we intended to do with him.

Now we have a one record deal with Blackout.

Jay: And you have a couple of guys from Outcrowd...

Yeah. My brother Todd played guitar in Outcrowd, and we also have the Outcrowd drummer.

Jay: A friend of mine, who by the way isn't a big H2O fan, made an interesting point. He figured since H2O embraced old school hardcore, why you guys would put out a 2 song 7 inch. Considering the problem people have with the price of a 2 song 7 inch being full price and all that crap.

We didn't want to...

Jay: *Put all your eggs in one basket?*

Exactly. It was such a long time ago, and we just wanted to put something out. It was never intended to be just a 2 song 7 inch.

Jay: *Maybe your full length will be 5 songs, and your box set will be 10 songs.*

Joe: Right now H2O is one of the most popular HC bands with the least amount released. With that in mind, along with the fact that you were a roadie for Sick Of It All, what are the chances of Sick Of It All opening for H2O?

I don't like to think that way.

Joe: *It could happen.*

(Toby relays the question to Lars of Rancid, who happens to be in the room.)

Lars: I'll tell you something right now. Having Sick Of It All open for your band is the worst thing that could happen.

I wouldn't do it, even if we were the biggest band in the world.

Lars: The only reason we let that happen is that we didn't want to get the NY beatdown.

That was a creepy question, that's a good one.

Part Two:

Joe: *Last time we spoke, I mentioned Sick Of It All opening for you. On that same note, did being a roadie for them make you a little jealous?*

No, I was never jealous. At the end of my career as a roadie, we started doing "My Love Is Real", kids started asking for it like in California when we first did it. Then I decided that when I get back home I would get my ass in gear and do this for real. I was never jealous, I became inspired if anything. They took me everywhere. I learned so much, and appreciated it all. I met great bands and people. Our second show was with the

Cro-Mags at the Limelight and it was horrible for us. But it was the Cro-Mags so I jumped at the chance, they could break up next week.

"Those people probably have no heart in the scene, and have never been down. The record is dedicated to the people who inspired me and my appreciation of them."

Joe: *When I saw you guys at the Wetlands (where "My Love Is Real" was recorded on the new record. -Ed) I thought you guys sucked. After hearing the 7 inch, I couldn't have been more surprised. Would you rather open a show of thousands, or headline smaller shows?*

The best show we've played was a Coney Island High. It was smaller and more personal. Barricades and bouncers really suck. But at the same time, I wouldn't turn down a large show. It gives us a chance to open peoples minds to us and our music.

Joe: *Who did your tattoos?*

Civ did most of them. He did my first one, in fact.

Joe: *I've read that Civ started the new band because he felt that Civ was the only hardcore band left.*

Civ, I love you, you're my boy and all, but I have to disagree with that. Civ, the man is sincere and his heart is in hardcore. But hardcore never left, it's always been here

Joe: *I've heard people claim that you are merely "name dropping", when you have all these popular people in the scene on the record.*

All those people are my inspirations. They let me sleep on their couches.

Joe: Like "I know all these people", to give H2O street credit.

All those people probably have no heart in the scene, and have never been down. This record is dedicated to all the people that inspired me, and my appreciation of them. I really don't feel the need to explain..... those people should ask me to my face..... The people who spoke on the record would never have done it if they thought it was for the wrong reason.

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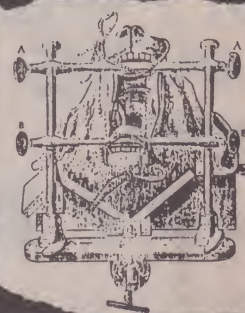
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I'M PUNK, YOU'RE NOT! (PART 2)

For those of you who have had the pleasure of reading Hellbender #8, you may have had noticed the lack of personal writing by yours truly. The reason for this is that, well, I really didn't have much to say. That was issue 8, this is issue 9, and I'm just getting started...

TWO YEARS OF BENDING HELL.

You got it, baby. Two long years. Sure the old HB's used to suck, I'll be the first to admit it. The old game of trial and error, along with some good advice, and the love of rock n' roll, kept Hellbender afloat. Worth it, don't you think?

HARD WORK? YEAH, RIGHT.

Guilty. You found me out. The typewriter just started typing all by itself. Record labels just called me hoping I would have a zine. The typed pages hopped in a taxi to the copy place and took it from there. Yeah! I also have a professional layout person on staff that makes house calls. You don't think I ever would take precious time out my life to go to

shows? Interview bands? Sell zines? No way! I'll assume you know I get free phone service, free gas, rent insurance, car repairs and postage. Oh, if you believe any of that, you are either naive or jealous, and chances are you're both. Hard work? You got it, punk.

IN IT FOR THE \$

Right again! Instead of losing money, I break even! Holy crap! Stop the presses! (no pun intended) No really, I'm set. I just work a shitty job for big fun.

HELLBENDER IS CORPORATE.

You are right, again! That's why I run free or cheap ads for those who can't afford it but need the publicity. HB is just laced with major label ads, you just don't see 'em because they are invisible. Let's move on...

SUCCESS=SELLOUT.

Since when did success equate "selling out"? What's wrong with more than 10 people going to your shows or buying your record? What is wrong with making money? (Just between you and me, I heard that this one label actually sold some records, and might not go out of business after two months. The shame!)

BARCODES BAD!

If you decide whether you will listen to or like a CD/ zine/ record by a few stripes on the back, and not by the content of the product, you are in a sorry state of affairs.

IF IT AINT PUNK, ME NO LIKE!

If you are foolish enough not to like a band or a song because it's not someones definition of punk, you never were, nor will you ever will be punk. It goes the same for the person who claims to like something that is "punk" but really doesn't. I was decieved in to thinking punk meant doing your own thing, even at the risk of not fitting in. Guess I was wrong, again.

MAJOR LABELS BAD!

I'll admit major have some seroius faults. Then again, almost every institution contains underhanded behavior in buisness and ethics. Indie labels are no exception. How many times have you ordered something from a label and recieved nada in return? Do't always blame labels when a band "sells out". Chances are bands know what they are getting into. Obviouslyly bands get screwed, but it comes with the territory.

-Jason Horton

LETS HAVE A TALK

WITH JOHN

by John Greak

-Recently I've been reading a lot of zines and, to my dismay, it seems that there is no fun to be had in the world. The rule book to be cool has been expanding and, unfortunately, I just can't seem to keep up with it. And to think the ones who keep insisting they're so uncool are the ones who make fun of everyone else. Anyhow, I'm about to admit all my weaknesses that make me so un-hip. But don't worry, I'm much cooler than all you dorks reading this.

1. I like, no, I *love* professional wrestling. Yep. You read it right. I love watching grown men in tights run around a ring and pretend to fight. I know this isn't going to endear me to any emo kids, but hey, I'm willing to risk it.

2. I love sports. You name it, I watch it. Hockey, football, baseball, basketball. Hell, if I'm feeling crazy I'll even watch a little tennis. My favorite television show is "SportsCenter" on ESPN, you know, the total sports network. Actually, the two men who anchor that show, Keith Olberman and Dan Patrick, are probably the two people I'd most like to meet. Even more than Karl from Earth Crisis.

3. I like music other than hardcore and punk. Van Halen is one of my favorite bands. I even like Sammy Hagar. Uh, I went and saw Bon Jovi last year and, get this, I enjoyed it! If I had \$80 I'd go and see the Kiss reunion tour. Conversely, I won't walk across the street to see Shift for free. Deal with it.

4. I think the worlds an okay place. I even enjoy being alive. Somedays I get so starry eyed that I'm actually happy. I know, I know. Me no punk.

5. I like Green Day and I think they're punk.

6. I watch MTV. Actually, I only watch 120 Minutes, and I want to state for the record that if I ever see host Matt Pinfield walking down the street, I will kill him.

7. I read super-hero comic books. Man, I'm so blinded by the system that one of my favorite characters is Captain America! Picture it now: me, Bill Clinton, and Captain America. One big happy family. Did I mention I vote and like it?

8. I love political incorrectness. I call women chicks, I love fur coats, and I eat at fast food restaurants at least once a week. Sometimes I even litter.

This is probably only the tip of the iceberg, but I can't seem to think of anything else that makes me so uncool. Oh there are others, but they'll have to wait until a later date. There are more pressing matters to attend to now.

- Everywhere I turn it seems someone's making a big deal about the recent One Life Crew/Victory Records scandal. If you've been living in a cave and don't know the story, I'll give you the skinny on it. One Life Crew, a "tough" Cleveland band, had their latest record released on everyone's favorite hardcore label, Victory Records. On this record it seems OLC made some controversial racist and anti-immigrant comments. Now after a couple of incidents between One Life Crew and some fans, Victory dropped the band and, as far as I know, ceased production of this album. End of story, right? Not in my book. Now let me get one thing straight. I don't give a crap about Victory or One Life Crew. They could both rot in Hell for all I care.

But I'm wondering why no one is holding Victory Records responsible for this fiasco. In my opinion, the blame should fall on Victory itself. Why would a label of Victory's magnitude put out such questionable material? Surely Tony Victory knew the content of the material contained on the record. In the end he took the easy way out by dropping the band. Why sign the band in the first place? Gee, could it have been for money? Everyone knows the Victory logo sells records and I'm sure the One Life Crew album sold plenty of copies before the backlash forced Victory to drop the band. So in the end, the kids get their way, One Life Crew gets the boot, and Victory gets the money. Tough deal, eh? Maybe they'll re-release the Screwdriver catalogue while they're at it to make a couple of bucks. In my humble opinion, Victory should take any money they made off the record plus a little extra thrown in to make up for the stupidity of releasing the record in the first place and donate it to a good cause. Of course, the chances of that happening are probably nil. Hey, who knows, Victory may have already done this and maybe I'm just some jerk with nothing better to complain about. But call me crazy, I want some proof. Until I see it, all you little kiddies out there better remember that the Victory logo you sport so proudly on your shirts represents, at least in some circles, all that is very wrong with the world. Can you say boycott? I can. By the way, to all the kids who disagree with what One Life Crew has to say, please remember that this is a free country. Not everyone shares the same opinion as you. Now in no way do I support any racist stances, but I do support the rights of these people to share their views. I've heard more than one person say something ridiculous to the tune of, "One Life Crew's a bunch of fascists. They shouldn't be able to say that stuff." Uh, not letting them say their peace would make you a fascist, not them. Get with the program, okay?

- On the punk rock sell-out front, the Bouncing Souls, Weston, and Lifetime show on June 21 at Tramps in NYC sold out. The place holds about 1000 people I'd guess, so it came as a bit of a surprise. Scalpers on the street had tickets going for \$30 a pop. Public execution for the members of these bands has been set for July 31.

-Now I know Hellbender is a music fanzine, but for a moment I'd like to stop and discuss a political issue. Although another issue of Hellbender should hit the stands before election day, I'm going to make my election speech now: Do everyone a favor and vote. In the latest Anxiety Closet fanzine, I read a quote that said, "Any vote is a vote for the system." Now I could be wrong, but when did not voting count as a vote against the system? I've never heard Dan Rather report on election night that a record number of people voted against the system, probably because such a statement is bullshit. I have many problems with what's going on in this country today, particularly in the political realm. But I believe that voting is effective and does get your voice heard. It's certainly more effective than sitting home and complaining about the problems of the world.

- Keeping things serious, there have been two recent deaths in rock that need to be discussed. Brad Nowell, lead singer of Sublime, recently died of a heroin overdose. This was pretty big news, getting on MTV and all since Sublime was on the verge of releasing their major label debut. I'm no big Sublime fan, but this was bad news nonetheless. In case you haven't heard, heroin is bad for you. Then on June 19, Jim Ellison, lead singer/guitarist of Material Issue, committed suicide. This was much more depressing, considering that MI's album "International Pop Overthrow" is an awesome record that I've spent many a hour listening to. It's hard to believe someone who wrote some of the happiest songs I've ever heard would kill himself. But Material Issue hasn't done much recently and was dropped from their label. I guess life isn't all it's cracked up to be...

-On a brighter note, I've decided to start a new activist group. It's called Proud To Eat Meat. Our goal is to bring us meat eaters out of the shadows and to the forefront of the scene. We even have our own style; you know, the meat thermometer around the neck, the Sam the Butcher t-shirts. Jump on the bandwagon now! Eat meat, now more than ever.

- To wrap things up, I'm going to tell everyone that my favorite episode of "Cheers" is the one where Woody Boyd sings the classic "Kelli Song". Anyone who has seen it will never forget it. Until next time...

all out war



The following interview took place inside CBGB's one afternoon before All Out War's set. It is sometimes hard to interview people you know well, thus knowing all the answers to the questions. So, we tried to make it as informative as possible. Present were the interviewers: Jay Horton and Joe Average, and interviewees: Mike Score-vocals, and Chris Chisholm- guitar. Get aquatinted with one of hardcore's most brutal bands. Get aquatinted with All Out War.

Jay: Let's commence this interview by discussing All Out War's reputation for

being a "tough guy" band, and the occurrence of near riots at your shows....

Mike: Just a bunch of assholes who don't go to shows anymore. It has nothing to do with us.

Joe: Are you saying that it doesn't happen anymore?

Chris: Yeah. Those guys used to hang with us, but it really doesn't happen anymore.

Jay: All Out War was known to some as a gang. "Oh look, the All Out War posse is coming! Let's get the fuck out of here!" (said in my most frightened tone)

Mike: Yeah, but I could call myself the "Hellbender posse"....

Jay: *You wish you could run with that name.*

Joe: *How do you feel about those guys following you around, and beating up every one in sight?*

Mike: I think I address that on stage. I try to let people know that that's what we were not about, and that we don't condone it. I'm not a baby-sitter. It's was just a bunch of kids who watched too much "Yo MTV Raps".

"If you put an X on your hand and play metal, you're a hardcore band. If you drink beer and play metal, you're a metal band."

Joe: *You guys pretty much started the whole hardcore/metal thing in the area, and there's so many clones of you guys....*

Chris: I think it's um...

Jay: *Flattering?*

Chris: Yeah, definitely.

Mike: I don't think we started it. Bands like Marauder....

Joe: *But this area, All Out War comes to mind.*

Mike: I guess it's flattering.

Joe: *You don't feel ripped off?*

Mike: No, we're doing our thing. Other bands are doing theirs.

Joe: *But when you play shows, you hook up other bands, but when it's their turn to do the same, it doesn't happen.*

Mike: It all comes back around, it always does.

Jay: *Mike, what is your stance on metal? Either a band denies a metal influence, or they hype it to sell their band, as a shtick.*

Mike: If you put an X on your hand and play metal, you're a hardcore band. If you drink beer and play metal, you're a metal band. There's not too many old school hardcore bands....

Joe: *There's Maximum Penalty, H2O....*

Mike: Yeah, of course, but hardcore is more of a scene than music.

Joe: *What do you guys do for a living?*

Chris: I....

Jay: *Have a tattoo shop called Skin City. I use dirty needles....*

Chris: I try to dip 'em in dog shit first.

Mike: I'm a janitor and I'm proud!

Joe: *Let's talk about the line up change. Are you going to stick to one guitar or...*

Mike: We're not going to bust our ass to find another guitarist, but we want another one. Maybe one that's not a drug addict. That's why Jim is out of the band, for being a crack addict. He made his own problems.

Joe: Like lack of money to buy crack with.

Mike: He had plenty of money, he sold all of our stuff.

Jay: I know All Out War has had some label interest. Would you care to embellish on that?

(Silence)

Joe: You don't know what embellish means, do you?

Mike: I know what it means!

Jay: Would you like to be on a label that will take care of business so to speak? I know you do your own PR work, and it's gets frustrating...

Mike: I guess, but we've been going this long without it....

Jay: Drop some names of labels, go ahead, feel free.

Mike: No, I'd rather not.

Joe: Mike, I know you listen to other types of music that differs than the music you guys play. Since that type of music isn't geared to what you play, do you ever want to play other kinds of music?

Jay: And you have an extensive rare record collection. F.U.'s, Dag Nasty....

Mike: Bands like Negative Approach influence me.

Chris: I only started listening to hardcore when I met Mike.

Joe: You are a very talented guitarist. Do you feel stifled by the music you play?

Chris: Not at all. The rhythm parts in our songs are pretty hard to play at times. It also hard to do both lead and rhythm.

Jay: Mike, your lyrics paint a grim picture. Is that how you feel, or are you just trying to complement the music?

Mike: No, it's real.

Joe: So you have a pessimistic outlook...

Mike: It's reality. It's the way I feel.

Jay: Chris, how does working at the tattoo shop affect something as essential as touring?

Chris: I would bring it all with me. I'd tattoo on the road.

Joe: What's up with the CD?

Mike: We're recording it now.

Joe: How many times is "Destined to Burn" on it?

Mike: At least 6 times.

Jay: Considering the band's breaking up for almost a year, do you feel set back?

Mike: No. We don't think of things like that. We just do what we do and hope for the best.

All Out War have a 7 inch out on Hardway Records, 4 songs on the Philly Dust Krew Comp on Too Damn Hype, a CD in the works, and a 7 inch out now on SUR records. Contact All Out War: 5 Southside Ave. Apt 9A New Paltz, NY 12561 (914) 255-0171

SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN

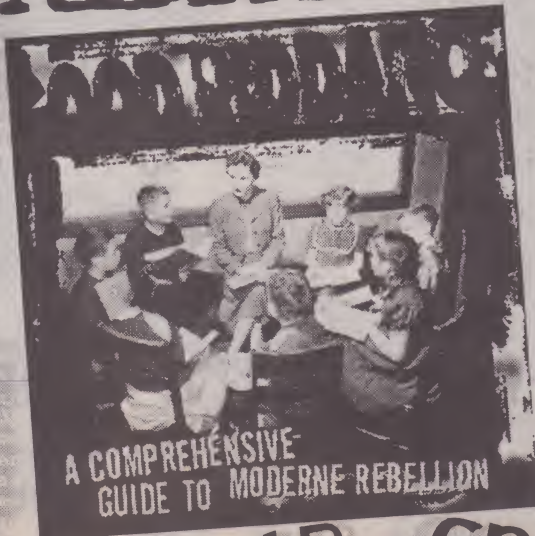
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Check out the disappointing sophomore effort from

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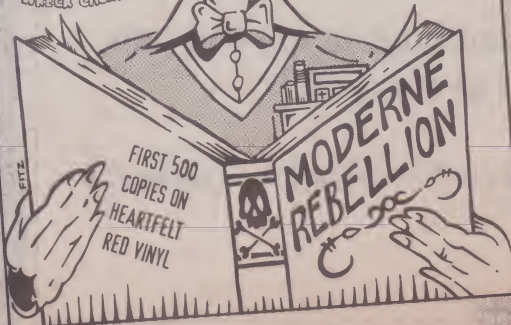


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AVAIL

The following interview is with Virginia's finest, Avail. Conducted by none other than Joe Average, with Tim, vocalist of Avail, via, "the phone". In case you are interested, your stunningly handsome editor did the typing, and Joe *actually* did the transcribing. Let's cut the crap and get on with the interview.....

Tell me about the new album.

Hold on, let me light a cigarette.

Oh, so you're NOT straight edge.

(Jay) Forget it this interview is over!

Last time I saw you guys, it was \$5 to get in, and \$6 for a shirt. Is it tough keeping prices so low?

Not really. I live in a house with a lot of other people, so it's really cheap for me to live. Other than touring money, I get a royalty check from Lookout, and I can live for like \$100 a week. We won't play a show for more than a \$6 door price. We did have to raise our CD price from \$7 to \$8.

What a rip-off! So you have never played a show for more than \$6 a head?

Actually, we played 2 shows in our town with GVAR, who are friends of ours. And at first, we were not interested but you have to remember that they put on a great show for \$15 and have 17 people that perform with them. So we were like, "fuck it", and played the shows anyway. We have no regrets about it.

"I had bugs in my hair and had to cut it off."

What's it like touring in Europe compared to here?

Europe is way better. The clubs treat you more like you actually matter. We played a lot of squats in Europe, and the people don't shit on us, they respect us.

When did you cut your hair?

Oh man, the last time we were in Europe we played a lot of squats, and there's all these gutter punks. So I was like "O.K.", I'll try it to see what it's like. It was the most disgusting experience of my life. I got sores on my feet, from pissing in nasty squat bathrooms, standing in urine. I got bugs in my hair and had to cut it off. It was just the worst experience.



I saw you guys in some church in Paramus, NJ once, and you were so sick that you had a garbage can on stage to puke in.

I remember that show. I ate a Wendy's salad that day and haven't been able to eat one since. That was one of the few times I blew somebody off. I was puking outside and some guy was like "what's up dude", and I was like "Get the fuck away from me". I'm never like that, but I was really sick.

Do you like playing places like churches, etc.?

It was really great except for the stage.

What are you, afraid of heights or somethin'?

You have no idea. We went to this big water slide park one time, and when I got to the top, and realized how high up I was, I started shaking like crazy. So here I am, shaved head covered with tattoos, shaking on top of this water slide. There was this 7 year old girl, and she was saying, "Hey mister, what's the matter, are you chicken?" Then her grandfather started laughing, and I was like, "Fuck you, you little shit!" I was kind of funny.

Tell me about the song, "Riot At Monroe"

There is this park called Monroe Park near me. All summer long they allow the homeless to stay there until the fall comes. Like when all the students and parents return, the cops come and try to move them. But they have no place to go. So it's O.K. for them to stay there as long as these university people can't see them. It's O.K. that they stay there, at least until they become an eyesore. Well, a couple of near riots ensued when they tried to move the people.

Avail nearly beats up the Offspring? A reference to one of Offspring as looking like Bo Derek? Tune in next time to, Avail Pt. 2!



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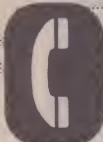
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REVIEWS

Ooh, just what you wanted! Yeah, we know, everyone loves our rock reviews. So lets cut to the chase. Once again we try to review everything we get. That is when we don't go trading CD's for dope. Your guide to reviewers is as follows: JA= Joe Average, JG= John Greak, JH= Jay Horton. Here goes...

A.C.- "40 More Reasons To Hate Us" (Earache)

I guess you can either love or hate this band. I find some novelty in this type of music. Fast, furious, and humorous at times, with campy song titles and lyrics to boot. You may actually find some enjoyment in A.C. (JH)

A.F.I.- "Very Proud Of Ya" (Nitro)

Not bad, not bad at all. The vocals set this apart from some of the other pop-punk bands. Other than that, the usual fanfare. (JH)

A.F.I./Heckle- Split 7" (Wingnut)

Some real good punk stuff offered up by both bands. A.F.I. hits hard and fast with "Aspirin Free" and "Advances In Modern Technology". Heckle offers the hilarious "Lemmings" and "Something Real". Definitely worth checking out. (JG)

Alterkation- "Judgement" Demo

This is hardcore to say the least. Predictable mosh parts not unlike Pantera. Although I dug the fast parts the rest is just mediocre. (JH)

Avail- "4AM Friday" (Lookout)

This is by far one of the best punk albums I've ever heard. Aggressive, emotional, and full of energy, with sing along melodies to boot. Get this or die! (JH)

Baby Harp Seal- 7" (Chainsaw Safety)

Droning, unoriginal crap. I'm sure this is relevant "emo" music to someone, but not to me. Stuff like this reminds me that silence is a beautiful thing. (JG)

Bali Girls- S/T (Bitter Sweet)

Noise-core to the end. Joe Average said the live show blew his mind. This CD didn't blow mine, but hey, that's me. (JH)

Biohazard- "Mata Leao" (Warner)

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't scared to listen to the new Biohazard. I haven't really taken them too seriously since I believe they became a total parody of themselves. "Mata Leao" contains some decent songs that you can definitely groove to. The lyrics leave a bit to be desired, though. By the way, the departure of guitarist Bobby Hambel paved the way for ex-Helmet and Rest In Pieces guitarist Rob to join up for this effort. (JH)

Blangk- "Letter To No One" 7" (Toothless)

Toss another one on the bonfire. Hmm, I wonder how many bands out there are good at being this unspectacular. I guess this isn't bad, just lifeless and uninspiring. Which is worse, of course. (JG)

The Brickbats- "Sing You Dead" (Dismal Abysmal)

Although this NYC based band has a strong gothic following, I found them to be anything but. If you happen to be a fan of either the Misfits or the Damned, as well as awesome song writing, then you should fly right with the Brickbats. (JH)

Carcass- "Swansong" (Earache)

Be still my beating heart; my favorite band of it's genre is gone for good. Carcass had the perfect package: song structure that was pure genius along with music that emulated intense power and energy. At times I could almost comprehend the lyrics. Although Carcass evolved from a down and dirty death metal band in to a more harmonizing thrash metal band, they end their run with their head held high and not in vain. (JH)

Catherine Wheel- "Like Cats and Dogs" (Mercury)

Catherine Wheel's somber melodies and sometimes anger ridden tunes make this band one of my favorite truly alternative acts today. I am convinced of the pain evident in the songs and the buzzsaw guitars don't have to be heavy in order to truly blaze. A healthy dose of C.W. may be what you have been looking for. (JH)

Chain Of Strength- "The One That Still Holds True" (Revelation)

The heavily anticipated discography of C.O.S. is finally here. This CD combines the "True Till Death" 7" and the "What Holds Us Apart" 7", along with an unreleased track entitled "Impact", which sounds like it was recorded during C.O.S.'s latter era. Chain Of Strength were one of the more popular straight edge bands of their time and this CD should explain why. (JH)

The Daredevils- "Hate You/Lies Hearts" 7" (Epitaph)

This 7" signals Brett Gurewitz's return to rock & roll world. He's the Daredevils singer/guitarist, and of course he writes the songs. "Hate You" is an okay song with an arena rock feel to it. "Lies Hearts" blows it away with it's Bad Religion meets Elvis Costello catchiness. A good effort that leaves me wanting to hear more. (JG)

The Doosies- "Plus Tax" Demo

The Doosies have that quirky pop quality I love. Alternative music to the max. They do a rad cover of Iron Maiden's "The Trooper", so how can you go wrong? (JH)

Drowning Room- "The Divinity Syndrome" 7" (Trip Machine)

New rock from New York mosh masters. This 7" shows off a variety of styles. At times goes from fast paced hardcore with scary vocals to a more melodic sound with actual singing. I definitely prefer the faster stuff, but this an all around solid effort. Buy this or their singer will start dating your younger sister. (JG)

End Of One- "No Souls Saved" Demo

First of all, these guys remind me of Carcass, which is good, very good. Intricate guitar work gives this band a death metal feel, but a hardcore style is present. Get this or burn. (JH)

Enkindel- "Some Assembly Required" (Initial)

This is the first full length by Enkindel and I sure hope it won't be their last. These guys rock out to the fullest extent of the law. Hardcore that is heavy enough to mosh to, but won't burden you with excess noise. Go for it. (JH)

Enrage- "Empty" (Phantom Power)

If you were a fans of Life Of Agonys earlier stuff, then Enrage is for you. Fans of Clutch take note as well. You get the picture. (JH)

The Exploited- "Beat The Bastards" (Rough Justice)

What I can say is that many of todays punk bands were obviously influenced by the Exploited. What I can't say is that this is worth your time. The usual Exploited formula with really metal sounding guitars and filtered, industrial style vocals. Embarrassing to say the least. (JH)

454 Big Block-7" (Big Wheel Productions)

Bostons own 454 Big Block come through with the goods. Plenty of groove along with some unbridled hardcore. 454 Big Block remind me of one of my favorite hardcore bands Eye For An Eye. (JH)

Fat Nuts- "Settin It Straight" (Back Ta Basics)

Okay, I've stopped laughing at the name of this band. The music on display here is straight up hardcore. I wish I could tell you the lyrical direction of these guys, but there's no lyric sheet included. Like most Back Ta Basics releases, this is as D.I.Y. as it gets. If the current crop of heavy hitting hardcore bands is to your liking, than this is for you. (JG)

Front Towards Enemy- Double 7" (Exit)

Nice Packaging. Too bad the bands tend to lean toward the sucky side. Generic hardcore. ...zzzzzz.. (JH)

Fury Of V- 7" (Just In Case)

Fury Of V possess something that most bands lack: presence. Both in their live act and on this 7", Fury Of V take care of business. Heavy hardcore via the better parts of Biohazard. Fury Of V are a force to be reckoned with. (JH)

Goldfinger- S/T (Mojo)

Even though "Here In Your Bedroom" is starting to get on my nerves, this is still a great album. It may be a bit over produced, but there's plenty of good punk songs, ska songs, and punk/ska songs for the taking. (JA)

Good Riddance- "A Comprehensive Guide To Modern Rebellion" (Fat Wreck Chords)

This album picks up where the first left off. New drummer Shawn and some hardcore influences make this album sound cleaner and tighter. If you're not already a fan, this is a good place to start. (JA)

Go Sailor- 7" (Lookout)

This isn't exactly what I expect from Lookout. A pop band with a female vocalist. The 4 songs on this 7" are so sugary sweet they put Velocity Girl to shame. If you've heard one song, you've heard 'em all, but this is still a surprisingly good listen. (JG)

Groovie Ghoulies- "The Island of Pogo-Pogo" (Lookout)

Punk rock coming at you with some annoying vocals. I don't know if I like this or not. At least they have a sense of humor, which is saying a lot these days. (JG)

Groovie Ghoulies- S/T (Lookout)

More of the same from the Groovie Ghoulies. By the way, I would never name a band the Groovie Ghoulies. Back to the issue at hand, this three piece is actually growing on me. This full length is definitely better than the 7". Check it out. (JG)

Gutter Mouth- "Teri Yaki-Moto" (Nitro)

I believe this is Guttermouths sophomore release. Snotty vocals backed by pop-punk music. Similar to A.F.I. Yeah. (JH)

H2O- S/T (Blackout)

Whoever keeps crying that old style NYHC is dead doesn't live in NY because H2O is here to prove it lives. This is how I remember hardcore. A great record, even if the talking between songs gets annoying. If you don't like metal core, get this or Horton will move in on your couch. (JA)

Heckle- "Not Laughing With You" (Wingnut)

Although these guys sound California born and bred, they're actually from NY. That said, what we got here is hardcore

influenced pop-punk, ala Good Riddance. (JH)

Her Fault- "Heritage" (Bitter Sweet)

This rocks. Pop rock to the fullest extent of the law. At times this is reminiscent of Coffin Break. Watchout MTV, here comes the good stuff. (JH)

Ice Nine- "Psychology & Extreme Violence" (Rhetoric)

Hardcore on the noise tip. I never knew people from Indiana had this much pent up aggression inside. Oh well, 6 songs on this one. Not my thing, but not awful. (JG)

Igrota- Live Demo

I'm not so sure this is a way to introduce your band to the rock & roll world. Well, that said, this is strange. Sort of an abstract grunge/jazz/noise thing going on. As Mike Cronin says, "This is bad news." (JH)

Infind- "Absence" 7" (Struggle)

Okay, if a band doesn't use capital letters, chances are they're "emo". Being the stickler for detail that I am, I capitalized everything anyway. As for the music, a homeless mans Sunny Day Real Estate. (JG)

Inner Dam- Demo

One of the better demos I've had the privilege to review. Rorschach or Born Against like vocals along with a downpour of chunky metalish music makes Inner Dam a force to reckon with. (JH)

Joshua-S/T (Immigrant Son)

Ultra rad pop music that gets aggressive at times. Fans of Drive Like Jehu, Sensefield, and Jawbox take note. (JH)

The Jimmies/The Weaklings-Split CD (Bitter Sweet)

Each band has one CD in this 2 CD set. Lo-fi punk rock. Not my thing at all. (JH)

Killing Time- "Unavoidable" (Blackout)

Considering the not-so-good response of Killing Time's "Happy Hour" EP, one might figure the reaction to the new EP from these NY legends would be similar. Not here. "Unavoidable" takes off where "Brightside" left off. Heavy, convincing, and powerful. You've been warned. (JH)

La Gritona- "Frank White" 7" (Chainsaw Safety)

The best thing about this release is the picture of Christopher Walken on the cover. Other than that, there's not much here for me. Mediocre hardcore/noise with a vocal growl. Shoot me now... (JG)

Madball- "Demonstrating My Style" (Roadrunner)

Okay, I'll admit it. This rocks with a capital R. Not really having a prior opinion of Madball made this CD a pleasant surprise. Well produced hardcore in the vein of Agnostic Front. You know how they do it. (JH)

Malamor- Demo

Ever since the break up of Carcass, my faith in quality death metal has disappeared. Well, at least until now. Mallomar could very well be the crowning jewel in the death metal scene. Evil & intense; you name it, they've got it. Vocals that could wreak doom and destruction, plus music that delivers. Beware. (JH)

Maximum Penalty- "East Side Story" (Too Damn Hype)

There's no band I'm happier to see back than Maximum Penalty. I used to see them all the time at Streets in New Rochelle. This EP is awesome NYHC (like the kind that is supposed to be dead). 5 songs of hardcore with a singer who can sing. (JA)

Mihouse- "Modern Problems, Old Fashioned Solutions, and Classic Mistakes" 7" (Wreck-Age)

This is a shame, a crying shame. Blazing noise rock, that does indeed rock. Good noise rock/hardcore, only to be met with lame vocals. The vocalist does a pretty awful job, with screaming as inspiring as cat litter. Too bad. (JH)

Murphy's Law- "Dedicated" (Another Planet)

Murphy's Law only know how to do one thing, and that is have fun. "Dedicated" brings back memories of their earlier album, "Back with A Bong". (JH)

Neglect/Cleanser- Split 7" (Exit)

Now we're getting somewhere. Neglect has called it quits as far as I know', and upon hearing this, I'd say it's too bad. Heavy, down and dirty hardcore. Cleanser rocks as well, with a little more melodic tone. (JH)

None Left Standing- "Stingray Candy 100" (Rhetoric)

Not being a big fan of this style of music, I'm probably not the guy to be reviewing this. I will say as far as up tempo emo rock goes, it has it's moments. Decide for yourself. (JH)

One Last Sin- Demo

As far as demos go, this is pretty good stuff. It has the ever popular hardcore/metal hybrid, but at times it seems to border on black metal, which I dig. (JH)

One Nation- "Down" Demo

Local heroes with a brand new tape. Sounds good as far as demos go. Hardcore with that NY sound. I like to hear HC bands with fast parts for a change. (JH)

Pacifier- Demo

Although they are not unlike their contemporaries, such as Deadguy and Kiss It Goodbye, Pacifier's twisted and tormented vocals and song structure lay it on the line. Long Island will never be the same. (JH)

Peacocks- "Come With Us" (Tudor Rock)

Ho hum, more middle of the road ska, this time from Sweden. It's amazing how one style of music can grow stale internationally. Nothing new, nothing off the beaten path. (JG)

Prescott Curly Wolf- "Six Ways To Sunday" (Mercury)

Maybe major labels are evil. Who signs these bands? This is awful. If I had to compare it to something, I'd say it's in the vein of crap. Am I clear? (JG)

The Promise Ring/ Texas Is The Reason- Split 7" (Jade Tree)

The Promise Ring brings "E. Texas Ave." to your table, but drops the tray. An "emo" ditty I just can't appreciate. The TITR side is much better, and actually gets heavy play time from me, which says either: A) It's really good or, B) I'm an idiot. Take your pick. (JG)

Propagandhi- "Less Talk More Rock" (Fat Wreck Chords)

This could be the punkest band out there today. There are no doubts as to what these guys are about. Their politics are their own, and all of it aside, this record is great. (JA)

Red Five- "Flash" (Interscope)

Aggressive indie-pop. As Mike Cronin would say, "This is bad news." (JH)

The Reverend Horton Heat- "It's Martini Time" (Interscope)

New one from the Reverend. Fun, fun, fun rockabilly that gets down and dirty. Hell yeah! (JH)

Ricanstruction- S/T (Ugly Planet Media)

This is one is an unexpected pleasant surprise. Excellent lyrics of revolution and oppression. The music is comparable to Bad Brains and even Living Color. Although this is also comparable to RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE, this is way more moving. Who needs rage when you can have Ricanstruction! (JH)

Sensefield- "Building" (Revelation)

A solid follow up to "Killed For Less". John Bunch's vocals are much more projected this time. "Out Live The Man" has MTV Buzz Clip potential. Remember you heard it here first. If you like aggressive rock that goes BANG!, you know what to do. (JH)

The Slackers- "Better Late Than Never" (Moon)

Some more traditional ska revival from The Slackers. Lets see, nothing really ground breaking on this one, but there is definitely some great song writing and musicianship displayed. If you're into the traditional style, this disc should get you on your feet and dancing in no time. (JG)

Snuff- "Demnamussabeonk" (Fat Wreck Chords)

There is no such thing as a "typical" Fat Wreck Chords band and Snuff proves it. This album is so awesome. Melodic, heavy punk rock. I can't hear the track "Martin" enough. (JA)

Spazboy- "Bladow!" (Immune)

Finally a solid pop punk offering. This is catchy, fun, and has infectious vocals. You know the recipe used on this one: songs about girls and strained friendships backed by music catchier than the flu. This one will keep you rocking & rolling all night long. (JG)

Spring Heeled Jack- "Static World View" (Moon)

I guess the thank you list on this one says it all. Members of SHJ thank more people than I've ever known! Is it really necessary for 4 different members to thank George Lucas? I know "Star Wars" is a way of life and all, but come on! Anyhow, the music is at times infectious and groovy. At others it's painfully mediocre. Inconsistent, but worth a spin. (JG)

Super Junky Monkey- "Parasitic People" (Sony)

Interesting. Funk, metal alternative thing going on from these lovely ladies of the Orient. Better than Shonen Knife! (JH)

Suspect Bill- "Bill Me Later" (Jump Up)

Lame ska to the max. It comes with some CD-Rom thing too. Who cares? (JH)

Strung Out- "Suburban Teenage Wasteland Blues" (Fat Wreck Chords)

Another pleasant surprise. Pop-punk with super charged metal riffs to put you in your place. You can't lose with this one. (JH)

Swampwalk- "Technicolour Vomit Jet" (Bleeding Hearts)

You know what, I just listened to this and I can't remember what it sounded like. It must have been real good. Oops, I just dropped this CD in the garbage. Oh well. (JG)

Sweet Baby/Brents TV- "Hello Again" (Lookout)

2 bands, 40 songs. Sweet Baby remind me of a punk version of the Dave Clark Five. Brents TV sounded more like your traditional punk. So -so at best. (JH)

Sweet Tank- cassette

NJ's Sweet Tank rock out pretty hard on this one. The songs range from a Sunny Day Real Estate to a Screaming Trees-esque theme. Get my drift? (JH)

The Shutdowns- "This Party Is A Frat House" (Lookout)

Three chord wonder rock from this outfit. I guess this is pretty good since I've played it about 50 times so far. Catchy and fun, what more could you ask for? (JG)

Texas Is The Reason- "Do You Know Who You Are?" (Revelation)

Other than being pretentious assholes, these guys rock. Good, catchy, melodic rock. This doesn't approach hardcore at all, which can only be a good thing. Some songs are too long, but hey, nothing's perfect. By the way, how about this for a song title: "There's no way I Can Talk Myself Out of This One Tonight (The Drinking Song)"? I would've called it "We're So In Love With Ourselves That People Want To Beat Us Up (The Please don't Hurt Me Song)". Good stuff, nonetheless. (JG)

Times Square- Demo

No frills NYC street rock in your face. This band has some stars in it, but I'm not telling you who. They have a bright future. (JH)

Towpath- Demo

This one is definitely strange. One would think this was a run of the mill death metal band. Well, it is. Although Towpath combines makeshift jazz, hardcore, and noise, this still doesn't make the grade. Towpath is on the same wavelength as Mr. Bungle at times; well, sort of. (JH)

Total Chaos- "Anthems From The Alleyway" (Epitaph)

These guys lost the Exploited sound (thank God) and incorporated a more Oi! sound which suits them better. Go out and buy this for the kids on the street. (JH)

Tripface- "This Foundation" 7" (Exit)

Great sound quality, decent hardcore. The usual formula is present: metal, mosh, blah. But this is almost enjoyable, to say the most. (JH)

Various Artists- Skampler #1/Skampler #2 (Tudor Rock)

This may be my worst nightmare. Two full discs of European ska. If I don't want to hear two discs of unoriginal garbage sung in English, then in definitely don't want to hear it in, say, German. This is good for a laugh, nothing more, nothing less. (JG)

Various Artists- Dojo Records Sampler (Dojo)

Great comp with Sham 69, Cocksparrer, Blitz, Motorhead, Anti-Nowhere League, and more. This label has the goods! (JH)

Various Artists- "European Hardcore: The Way It Is" (Lost & Found)

Okay everyone, get ready for a hardcore meltdown. More bang for your buck here with 29 bands on this disc. It's your usual European hardcore on display. If you're interested in hearing an example of what's happening across the pond, check it out. (JG)

Various Artists- "Dad, Are We Punk Yet?" comp (Harmless)

The first half of this CD is better than the second half. Some bands featured on this one are The Bollweeviles, Chemical Blue, and Squirtgun. Your move. (JH)

Velocity Girl- "Gilded Stars and Zealous Hearts" (Sub Pop)

Velocity Girl returns for another full length, and I am anything but disappointed. The vocals are more projected, which is a plus, and this indie-pop sounds as heavenly as ever. How can you go wrong? (JH)

Venice Shoreline Chris- "The 4-Track Adventures Of..." (Moon)

In a world full of generic ska, this disc comes as a breath of fresh air. Chris Murray, or "Venice Shoreline Chris", may be skas lone

solo artist. Accompanied by his acoustic guitar, and on some tracks keyboards and drums, Chris has assembled 9 soulful tunes that will keep the kids swaying all night long. Although not typical "ska", this is one of Moon's better finds in recent memory. (JG)

Weston- "Got Beat Up" (Go-Kart)

This one will put Weston on the map. Catchy pop tunes of teen angst we could all relate to at one time or another. (JH)

Whatever- "Sugarbuzz" (Music For I can't read my own handwriting)

When Horton gave me this CD I was pretty sure it wasn't his former white trash party rock band which also happened to be called Whatever. After hearing this disc, I wish it was his band. Listen, just take my word for it, you don't want this. (JG)

Zoinks!/The Gain- Split 7" (Rhetoric)

Two bands, 4 songs. The Zoinks! side definitely outclasses the so-so punk stuff done by The Gain. Zoinks! (I can't type this with a straight face) are definitely one of the better pop-punk bands I've heard in a while. Pick this one up, okay? (JG)

THE HELLBENDER STAFF RECOMMENDS...

Each and every issue, The Hellbender staff makes their rock & roll recommendations, old & new. This issue features your soundtrack for summer fun. Enjoy these tunes while sweating in your squats.

Jay Horton:

- 1) Avail- "4 A.M. Friday
- 2) The Beatles- all
- 3) Bad Brains- "I against I"
- 4) Carcass- "Swansong"
- 5) Chain Of Strength- "The One That Still Holds True"
- 6) King Crimson- "Larks Tongue in Aspic"
- 7) Metallica- "Ride The Lightning"
- 8) Morrissey- "Viva Hate"
- 9) Gary Puckett & The Union Gap Band- "Greatest Hits"
- 10) Sensefield- "Building"

John Greak:

- 1) Adrenalin O.D.- "Sittin' Pretty"
- 2) Doc Hopper- "Aloha"
- 3) The Go-Go's- "Return To The Valley Of The Go-Go's"
- 4) P.J. Harvey- "To Bring You My Love"
- 5) The Replacements- all
- 6) John Mellencamp- "The Lonesome Jubilee"
- 7) The N.Y. Citizens- "This Is The N.Y. Citizens"
- 8) Slapshot- "16 Valve Hate"
- 9) Swingin' Utters- "The Streets Of San Francisco"
- 10) Van Halen- Self Titled

Joe Average:

- 1) H2O- Self Titled
- 2) The Brickbats- "Sing You Dead"
- 3) Less Than Jake- "Pezcore"
- 4) Maximum Penalty- "East Side Story"
- 5) Killing Time- "Unavoidable"
- 6) Snuff- "Demmamussabebonk"
- 7) Millencolin- "Life On A Plate"
- 8) 88 Fingers Louie- "Behind Bars"
- 9) Her Fault- "Heritage"
- 10) Avail- "4 A.M. Friday"

ZINE REVIEWS

Welcome to the wonderful world of Hellbender zine reviews. My name is John and I'm your reviewer of zines. I try to review all the zines we get, but sometimes that's impossible. If you sent us a zine and it's not reviewed here, too bad. Better luck next time. Abbreviations are as follows: HS= Half Sized, FS= Full Sized, NP= News Print, C= Copied, & OS= Off Set. Enjoy....

All That # 8 - (FS, NP, Lotsa pages, \$3)

Wow, this is a really great zine. So much to read, so little time. Tons of profiles of bands, including H2O, V.O.D., Starkweather, & Bouncing Souls. Interviews with NOFX, Samuel, and a great talk with John Joseph. Plus features on Killing Time and Napalm Death. What more could you ask for? Well if you asked for music reviews a-plenty and scene news, you got it. Did I mention the color cover and the great layout? Do yourself a favor and get this now. (PO Box 1520 Cooper Square Station New York, NY 10276-1520)

Anxiety Closet # 7- (FS, OS, 60 pages, \$2)

Lets see. Here's what's right about Anxiety Closet: good layout, well thought out articles, good reviews, and a decent interview with former Snapcase member Scott Dressler. What's bad about Anxiety Closet: pandering interviews of Chokehold & Blindfold, a perplexing interview with Ray Cappo, boring political correctness, and - hold on to your seats- some "asides" poking fun at hardcore kids, CIV and The Bouncing Souls! Wow, really going for the tough stories, eh? Oh, also included are first aid tips for cats and dogs. So if your best friend is walking her dog and they happen to get hit by a car, don't worry. You'll have that dog back on its feet in no time at all! (4 Leona Terrace Mahwah, NJ 07430-3025)

Chairs Missing #21- (FS, OS, 46 pages, \$3.50)

Nice looking zine from CT. To tell you the truth, I don't know how I've missed this zine for this long. Good interviews with Fitz Of Depression, Low, Chixdiggit, Supernova, Hagfish, Wizo, and Nine Pound Hammer. Lots of record reviews, plus a ton of quick show reviews from '95. This is a good zine that is very informative and well worth the price. (PO Box 552 Stratford, CT 06497-0522)

Dogprint # 6- (FS, NP, 64 pages, \$2)

Another successful issue of Dogprint. Interviews with Integrity, John Joseph, and Atlas Shrugged. Plus writings on nature, reviews, letters to the editor, and plenty of photos of your favorite bands. Be prepared to talk about your feelings when you're done with this one. (PO Box 84 Suffern, NY 10901)

Dumpster Dive #11- (FS, C, 38 pages, \$2)

Another good zine from Connecticut. Interviews with Toadies, King Buzzo of The Melvins, El Vez, & Sloppy Seconds. Add to that record reviews and some zine reviews and there you have it. The emphasis is definitely on the interviews. If you're a fan of any of these bands, pick it up. (PO Box 426 Norwalk, CT 06856)

Heights Kld #3- (HS,C, 48 pages, \$1)

Hmm, when I first got this I took one look and thought I wasn't going to like it. I always have a bias that half size zines are going to suck. Not true. This a good zine with a really good interview with Blake from Jawbreaker, plus others with Glimpse, Extent Fanzine, and Conscience Zine. Columns, some pretty cool stories, and an article style approach to record reviews round this one out. For Gods sake, it's a \$1. Get it. (4017 Glen Canyon Ct Ne Albuquerque, NM 87111)

I Defy #3- (HS, C, 51 pages, \$1)

Yeah, I may of found the zine I don't like. Interviews with

Autumn, Standpoint, & Adventures In Immortality. Plus your typical rants: you know, life's boring, Christianity sucks, & whatever else is overplayed and under thought. Add a few reviews and that's all folks. Nice effort, better luck next time. (721 Corlies Ave. West Allenhurst, NJ 07111)

Intolerant #2- (FS, C, 20 pages, \$1)

This zine deals mainly with animal liberation topics and related ideas. I opened this, gave one of my not again sighs, and proceeded to be pleasantly surprised. Although I don't agree with many views expressed, the topics are expressed in a way that is anything but intolerant. Although pushy at times, this is a good read if you're remotely interested in the vegan movement. (38227 Wilson Ave. Willoughby, OH 44094-7826)

Moon Shine #2- (FS, C, 20 pages, stamps or trade)

A short zine with a lot of different stuff. Cut & paste job here, with things ranging from rap to Louise Post of Veruca Salt. A little bit of the following: the song "Stars" by Hum transcribed, fiction, poetry, a comic or 2, and some other stuff. Ambitious? Yes. Good? No. (PO Box 718 Powassan, Ontario POH 120)

Organ #45- (HS, C, too tired to count pages, \$7)

A quaint little zine from England. This is good, real good. Plenty of information and interviews with bands like Killing Joke, Mr. Bungle, and Manhole. Plenty of reviews for the kids and an interesting transcription of the Sex Pistols reunion new conference. Not everything from England sucks, you know? (326 Kensal Road London W10 5BZ UK)

Outback #16- (FS, NP, 48 pages, \$2)

Ooh, slick color cover, a good layout, and lots of stuff to read. Profiles of Lagwagon, Deadguy, Gameface Texas Is The Reason, & others. Plus a Florida scene report, hip hop and jazz news, and record reviews galore. Add some personal writings, live reviews, and some other articles and voila! Instant zine. Get it, you'll like it. (PO Box 780132 Orlando, FL 32828)

SCHtuff... #5- (FS, NP, 40 pages, \$1)

This is a zine from our friendly neighbors to the North. Interviews with Pennywise, Facepuller, & a Malefaction tour diary. You know the routine by now: zine reviews, record reviews, and some movie reviews. As an added bonus they include a letters section, something every zine should have (including this one). Like the cover on SCHtuff... says, "more pages, lower price". (7110 Westminster St. Powell River, B.C. Canada V8A 1C6)

Under The Volcano # 31- (FS, NP, 60 pages, Free)

Wow, this is an awesome one. Interviews with A.C., Down By Law, Waterdog, and Motherbox Records. Add to that some columns, a few band profiles, record reviews, & Donny The Punk. Oh yeah, they also have classifieds which I love oh so much. These guys definitely have something good on their hands. All I ask for is some larger print for the record reviews. But now I'm being picky... (PO Box 236 Nesconset, NY 11767)

Vista #2- (FS, C, 72 pages, \$3)

A nice thick zine that focuses on hardcore, animal rights, and anti-violence measures. A very good interview with Chokehold, along with others with Hatebreed, Section 8, & Sum Of All Fears. There are also xeroxed articles from papers that reflect or reinforce the editors stance on issues, along with record reviews and plenty of pictures. Although I disagree with many of the stances taken in this zine (especially some focusing on the second amendment), it's worth a read. (PO Box 293 Montgomery, NY 12549-0293)

LIVE REVIEWS

25 TA LIFE/ ALL OUT WAR/ CANDIRIA @ The Chance Poughkeepsie, NY March 29, 19996

To start off with, there were about four more bands that played this show, but since I missed them or don't know their names I really can't tell you much about them. So onto the bands I did see.

Candiria was the first band I caught. These guys mix up a pounding hardcore style with a jazz flare that is pretty impressive. The music at times was incredible and the guys in the band definitely know what they're doing. Unfortunately their vocals didn't do anything for me at all. The style seemed lost among in the unique mix of music. But this is definitely a band worth checking out.

All Out War was up next and they rocked the house. If you didn't know, this band broke up for almost a year but are now back together to wreak havoc on the world. Their mix of Cro Mags meets Slayer hardcore with some of the scariest vocals ever had the local crowd in a frenzy that kept 'em moving the entire set. This is a band that definitely has to be checked out live. If you get the opportunity, grab it.

Last but not least came 25 Ta Life. This is a band that I have not been a fan of in the past since I'm not much for the tough hardcore thing. But 25 Ta Life has come a long way. Their brutal hardcore assault sounds better than it ever has. They definitely have established themselves as one of the major forces on the current hardcore scene. Forget all the old Agnostic Front comparisons; 25 Ta Life can stand on their own two feet.

BAD RELIGION/DANCE HALL CRASHERS/UNWRITTEN LAW @ The Roseland NYC April 17, 1996

To tell you the truth, I wasn't looking very forward to this one and if I hadn't wanted to go take pictures of DHC, I probably would not have attended. But there I was anyway, even though I've repeatedly vowed never to go the Roseland again. The sound is crappy, it's way too big, and just too much of a hassle to enjoy a band there. This was especially evident tonight. I won't say much about the Dance Hall Crashers or Unwritten Law. Dance Hall Crashers were great as usual, but their act seemed somewhat lost in a huge ballroom. Unwritten Law were unspectacular, but better than I expected. In the end, though, this was a Bad religion show and Bad Religion is what I'm going to talk about.

Now I'm not Mr. Old School; I never saw Bad Religion in some small, obscure club. In fact I'd only seemed them once before, at the very same Roseland, on their Stranger than Fiction Tour. That time I made the mistake of believing that standing in front of the stage with about 3,000 people behind me would be an exhilarating experience as I heard some of my favorite songs ever. To a certain degree I was right, as I was pretty moved by songs like "Only Gonna Die" & "I Want To Conquer The World". But all standing in the front of the stage got me was a lot of bruises and a bad headache. I could have enjoyed it just as much further back, or so I thought. I left that night thinking, yeah, Bad Religion is still great. So this time out I decided to stand half way back and try to enjoy the show that way. Needless to say, I didn't. Being that far removed from the band, any band, seems so pointless. I might as well have been at home listening to records. That doesn't mean Bad Religion was bad; in fact, despite the muddy sound quality, they were quite good. They put out plenty of energy and didn't have any real rock star tendencies. Greg Graffins stage banter left a little to be desired and I'm assuming his "go home to mommy and eat your pizza" comments weren't aimed at me, but at the couple of thousand 16 year olds that dotted the crowd. But a show like this leaves me with an empty feeling inside, as if I'm somehow just going through the motions for some of these shows. Why can't shows like this be fun? Maybe because I'm too lazy to even attempt to have any fun. Oh well. At least I got to go for free. That's more than I can say for the other 2,999 losers there.

DOWN BY LAW/GOOD RIDDANCE/MILLENCOLIN @ The Tuxedo Junction Danbury, CT May 3, 1996

Uh oh. Someone was having problems cutting through some red tape so they could play. Unfortunately for them, Sweden's favorite sons and newest Epitaph sensations Millencolin couldn't do it in time for the show, so they didn't play. That left Good Riddance as the sole opening act. I wasn't overly impressed by these guys, but they were pretty solid. There were plenty of catchy punk tunes to keep your feet tapping. Maybe if I was more familiar with their stuff I would have been more impressed.

Down By Law was up next and proceeded to blow the roof off the place. These guys are one of the better live bands around today. Dave Smalley sounds as good or better live than on record. And unlike so many bands that just want to go out and play songs off their most recent effort, DBL spread the selections around pretty evenly, playing tunes off all four of their albums. The high point of the evening was the encore, during which they played the Dag Nasty classic "Under Your Influence". Although it seemed many in the crowd didn't recognize the song, those who did soaked it in. Even one Jason Horton was able to move himself onto the floor and mosh it up. That basically says it all. Long live Down By Law.

THE SPECIALS/THE TOASTERS/SUICIDE MACHINES @ The Roseland NYC June 13, 1996

Can someone say guest list? Hellbender can. None of us were willing to fork over the \$18 ticket price for this show, and if we hadn't gotten an interview with the Suicide Machines we wouldn't have been there. But fortunate we were and a good time was had by all.

First off, did I say I would never go to the Roseland again? Oops, I lied. Hey, The Specials don't play everyday, ya know? Up first were the aforementioned Suicide Machines with their Oplv inspired ska-punk. Lets just say the Roseland was way too big for a band like this to sound good. All their on stage presence was lost, as were the lead vocals. These guys also refused to sell shirts & CD's inside because the price would have been jacked up too much. Pretty interesting.

Up next were the Toasters and, yes, I was very disappointed. The Toasters are sporting a new vocalist since Coolie has left the band. That's all fine and dandy, as the newcomer was more than adequate. I just didn't like the set list (no "Decision At Midnight" or "Talk Is Cheap"? Aargh!) and their crisp sound was also lost in the ballroom. Now don't get me wrong, they were far from boring, but fewer tunes off the new record would have been welcome. Also fewer guest horn players would have been a good idea. At one point there were about 10 horn players on stage. Overkill, anyone?

Finally The Specials hit the stage, and since I missed their previous "reunion" tour, I was pretty psyched. Only 3 original members remain intact these days, and I was a bit skeptical since both Jerry Dammers and Terry Hall were among the missing. Needless to say I was blown away. Even in the Roseland, these guys sounded great. From "Guns Of Navarone" to their cover of The Clash's "Somebody Got Murdered", the sounds were sweet and soulful. And hey, maybe I'm a sucker, but when they stood there and did the whole speech on racial unity, I was pretty inspired. Maybe there's hope yet. Anyhow, apart from a needless cover of "Simmer Down", The Specials rocked the house. I hope all the kids in the audience who want to start bands took note of what ska should really sound like.

All live reviews are by John Greak. If you're still reading this page, you're in dire need of a life.

Inhuman- Demo (Forgot to include this review. Oops!)

Ex-Confusion members make up this raging NYHC outfit. These guys have the potential to go on to bigger and better things. If hardcore with a metal flare is your style, go for yours. (JH)

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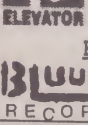
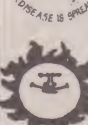
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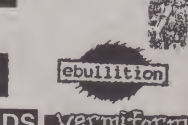
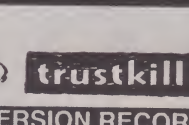
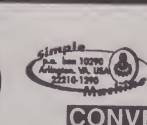
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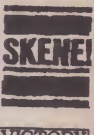


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GOOD RIDDANCE



The following interview is with Good Riddance. I am mentioning this just in case the above picture and words reading *Good Riddance* were not sufficient evidence that is in fact an interview with Good Riddance. It was conducted by Joe Average. I got the pleasure of transcribing it *and* typing it. Me lucky. It took place at Coney Island High in NYC, with Russ, the vocalist. Some of the interview was difficult to make out, because of some loud and unruly gents in the area. Maybe Joe will fill you in. Long live punk.

Let's talk about the new album.

Well, it will hopefully be out on June 4th. 18 songs of half hardcore, half emo-cheese.

"It's about being in the right place at the right time, and MTV dictates the rest."

You guys have been around now for what, 8 years?

More than that. Good Riddance has been around in one form or another for 10 years in different forms with different members. It's like everyone wants to be in a band, but not do any work. It's been really serious since 1990. We were a punk band before punk got as popular as it is now. It was a lot more low-key, and harder to survive as a band.

You mentioned that the new album differed from the previous. Is it heavier?

At times it's like straight up hardcore, other times it's more emo. It what we are really into, from Descendants to Born Against.

You had once said that Good Riddance didn't want to use bar-codes for their albums, as well as not wanting Caroline to distribute them. I guess Propagandi found a way....

Propagandi is a lot bigger than us, so they can afford to pull that off. If we did, we wouldn't sell any albums, and be in debt to Fat 'till we were 70 or something. I just hope that people wouldn't buy our records from Sam Goody anyway. My guess is that in a year or two, majors won't be interested in punk bands and things will go back to the way they were. I really have no excuse. I just hope people buy our album from Fat, or an independently owned record store. At a show in Miami, we told the audience the same thing, and two Caroline reps were there, and after the show they threatened to pull our records from the shelves at Caroline. I was like good, great.

Is this your 3rd tour?

It's like us riding the coattails of Down By Law on this tour, more us supporting them. We've toured on our own as us headlining, so in a way this our 3rd tour, but not technically.

What do you think when your shows, like the one last night(Tuxedo Junction Danbury, CT -ed) turns out to be a bunch of trendy little kids?

I don't know them, their town, or their scene. Maybe their into punk because of Green Day, but hopefully if this movement moves them as much as it moves me, maybe they'll stick around after this whole thing blows over. I try not to pass judgment, who am I to say anything.

The conversations somehow segues to the Offspring.....

It's about being at the right place at the right time, and MTV dictates the rest. That's the Offspring.

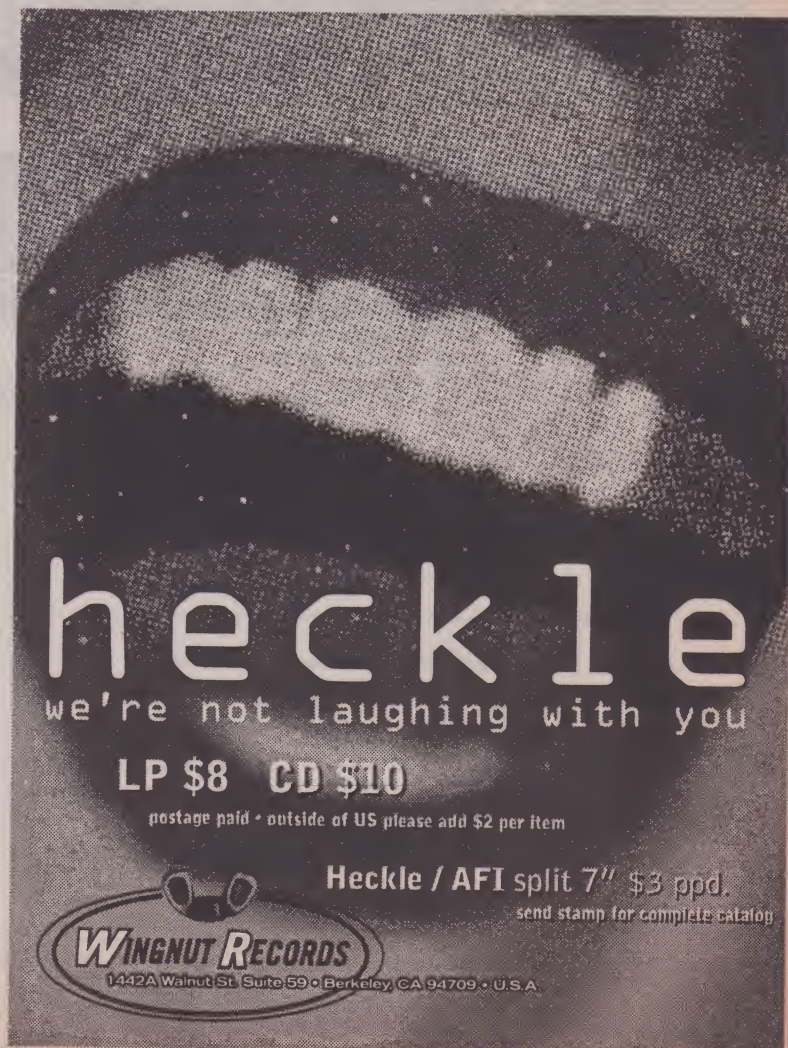
When does the tour with Ignite start?

June 20th. We'll take a few weeks off, and start the tour with them.

The conversation turns to hockey.....

Anything else?

Buy our album from Fat or a independent record store. The first 500 vinyl records are on red vinyl only available directly from Fat. We are the first band on Fat to have color vinyl. The album will have 2 cover songs. One being "Hall Of Fame" by Government Issue, and the other being "Come Dancing" by The Kinks. The cassette will have one cover song, and the CD will have one cover song and a hidden bonus track.



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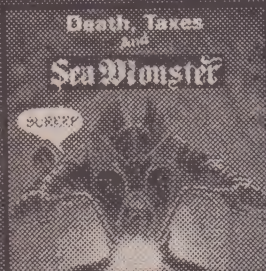
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Millencolin



The following interview is with that Swedish supergroup... No dummy, not *that* Swedish supergroup. I'm talkin' about Millencolin, baby. Millen who? You'll be eating those words soon. Millencolin will rock you, but you heard it here first. Joe Average is the interviewer, the interviewee is well the vocalist. His name, umm.... Did I mention I conned Joe into transcribing *and* typing the interview? What a sucker.

Is this your first American tour?

Yes, the first one.

And your first album was on...

Burning Heart out of Sweden. We are still on Burning Heart, they distribute us.

So Epitaph distributes you in America?

No, we are on Epitaph. They bought the rights for the American continent.

How is it touring back home compared to over here?

Well, there are a lot less people here. The shows are pretty much the same. There is more violence over here at shows.

Have you had any problems with any violence at any shows yet?

Yes, in Florida. At one show there was like 500 people, and in the middle of the show, 15 or 20 guys just started beating everybody up. Strange.

How are your shows at home?

Pretty good. Although it's great supporting Good Riddance and Down By Law. We had really good shows in Florida. Miami and Bombay, Florida.

Were you in any bands before Millencolin?

We've been in 3 Swedish punk bands, but we are influenced by American punk bands like the Descendants and Operation Ivy. I got sick of Swedish punk.

I think it's unique that you use ska riffs, but in a more punk rock rhythm. I rarely hear it done that way. Like in "Story Of My Life".

That song is about us turning vegetarian.

All four of you?

Yes.

Was it gradual or instant?

It was pretty instant. I live with my girlfriend and it's hard to get her into it.

I'm trying too, and it's hard as hell.

I guess it would be with all the junk food.

Any new recording in the works?

We just recorded in March, but we did record one song for a single in Sweden.

What does Millencolin mean?

It's the same as the word "melancholy". We decided to spell it differently.

Were you afraid of not being accepted in America?

Yes, but it's going well and were having fun. Some people knew our songs, which is great.

Any exiting tour stories?

We got stopped by the police in Mississippi. They were looking for illegal aliens, but we explained what we were doing, and they invited us to have coffee with them.....

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Punk Rock That Hurts

GOLDFINGER



The following interview is with Goldfinger. Guess who conducted the interview. Just guess. That's right, Joe Average *did* conduct this interview. Now guess who transcribed and typed it. Yes, your beloved editor. The interview took place outside CBGB's in NYC. Blah, blah, blah.....

So, all the songs from the EP are on the new album except "I Believe", right?

Yeah. We were going to only put 3, and uh, all the new songs sucked. No really, it just turned out that way. What happened with the EP is that we only made like a thousand, and we gave away like 200. We sold some at shows, and I still have 30 of them sitting at home. All those songs are demos. I have a 12-track studio downtown. I even played drums on all the

tracks. Before I had a band, I wrote all the songs and played all the instruments.

The way the video is going, I'm surprised that you guys aren't headlining any shows.

Actually, I'd rather play places like this, and not headlining.

I've never seen such a college crowd.

Our crowds are usually about 12 to 15 years old.

How old are you, if you don't mind me asking.

I'm 28.

What was the filming for?

Maybe for a home video someday. We also wanted to document are first New York show.

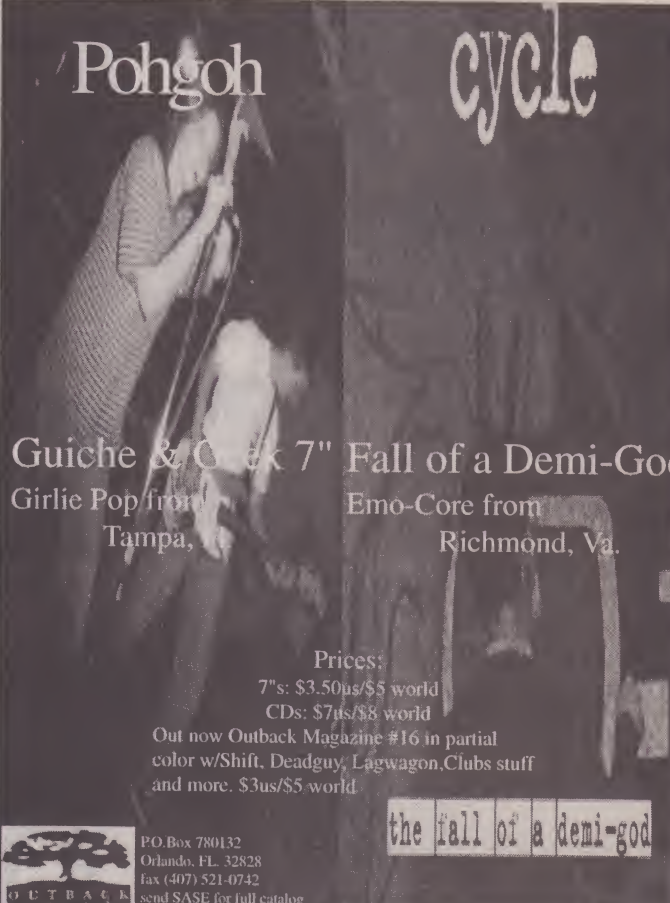
Do you always play with horns?

Oh yeah. We have a band that backs us called the Skeletones, a great band from our area.

What's with the secret track on the album?

It was our Darren our drummer. He called this guy in Buffalo, NY., about a want ad looking for musicians. We figured why not throw it on the record. So we did.

Pohgoh cycle



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Game Face

The following interview is with a rock band. They are sometimes know as Game Face. I am typing this interview in funky lettering because the interview is pretty lame, so this rad font should make up for it. Doing interviews over the phone makes it hard to do a personable interview. That, along with crappy recording equipment makes this interview pretty lame. Pictures of the band would also help. You can thank Dr. Strange for not sending any. (At least at the time I am typing this.) The interview was conducted by a Mr. Jason Horton, and one Mr. Joe Average with vocalist Jeff. The future for Game Face? We don't know. Or do we?.....

JA: Do you think Dr. Strange is promoting the new album ("Three To Get Ready") well enough?

As far as I know, I think they are doing a great job. At least better than Network Sound was doing.

JH: I was wondering if Game Face still plays songs off the first 7 inch? (Nemesis Records 1990)

No, and we probably never will.

JH: Never? Even if I pay you?

No, never.

JH: How's a dollar sound?

I get a little embarrassed just listening to those songs. I think we have grown musically. Those songs do not really represent Game Face. Although the 1st and 2nd 7 inch will be released on one CD.

JH: So you've matured?

Yes. I think the music is pretty good, but the lyrics...

JA: Would you mind being as popular as Green Day?

Maybe not Green Day, more along the lines of Superchunk.

JA: Where do you think Game Face has received the best response during the recent tour?

At a church in Philadelphia. It was a great show, it was us, Lifetime, and Texas Is the Reason.

JH: What was the turnout?

I'd like to say around 400 people.

JH: You'd like to say 400, but there was only 10.

JA: How was it being on tour with Texas Is the Reason? Did they give a shit about anyone except themselves?

I love those guys. We've become great friends.

JA: At Coney Island High, after Texas Is the Reason would play a song the singer would mock clap in a real arrogant fashion to the audience.

I really don't know them as arrogant. Like I said, I love them.

JA: Do you remember playing in Boston with a band called The Doosies?

Yeah, we just played with them. I thought they were really good.

JA: I know Atlantic has contacted you guys. I just know it. Don't lie now.

No, they haven't.

JA: Some majors HAD to have...

Some. I guess...

JH: TALK, DAMN IT!

I'll let you in on something. Don't record this and don't print it...click.....

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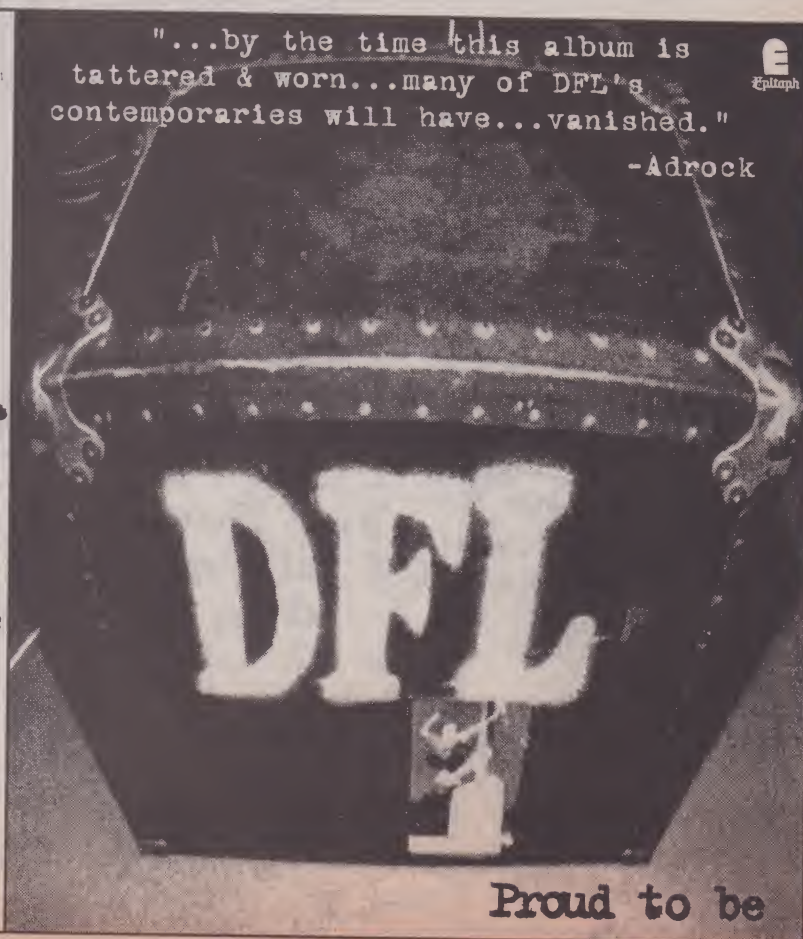
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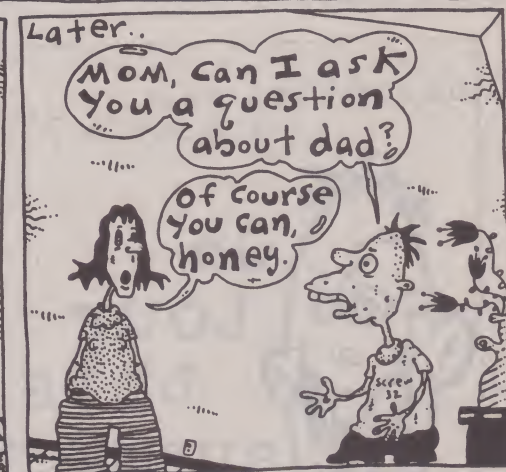


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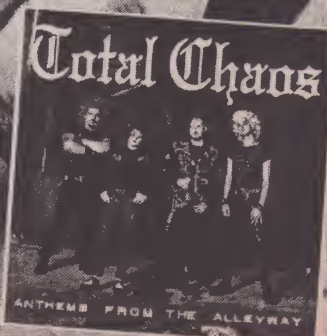


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